



The TURNTABLE

August 2011

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

August 4

Ladies Luncheon
11:30am at the C & C
Restaurant in James-
town. Call Marge @
533-4595

August 6

2nd Annual Singing
Rails Festival
(gates open at 4pm)
Coyote Hill @ 5:30
Laurie Lewis @ 7pm

August 13

Sierra #3

August 17

Volunteer Field Trip To
Hetch Hetchy Dam

August 27

Meals On Wheels
Benefit Event/ Special
Late Train

September 17

Sierra #3

September 24

Sierra #3

September 22

Volunteer Field Trip To
New Melones Dam and
the Sierra Logging
Museum

October 8

Special Membership
Day/ Moonlight Ride
Sierra #3

October 9

Harvest Haunt Trains
Begin for October

October 15

Sierra #3

The Yosemite Short Line Railway & The Race For Tourism

By Joe Sparagna

Thomas Bullock named the railway for the West Side Flume & Lumber Company, the Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite Valley Railway, because he wanted to get the sightseeing business into Hetch Hetchy Valley, and eventually into Yosemite. In 1904, an agreement was reached with the U.S. Congress to transfer some park land into forest reserves and grant a right-of-way to a proposed rail line to Yosemite Valley. One dozen companies showed interest in building a railroad to Yosemite; Bullock and the Sierra Railway were one of the interested parties. In 1902, the Yosemite Valley Railroad was formed by a group from San Francisco and Oakland, and they heavily lobbied Congress for the right-of-way. Bullock incorporated the Yosemite Short Line Railway to go to Yosemite in 1905. However, the Yosemite Valley Railroad obtained the right-of-way into the park and started construction from Merced in October 1905.

By October, Bullock had already built ten miles of narrow gauge track, starting two miles south of Jamestown going towards Groveland, even though he didn't have the right-of-way into the park. After the right-of-way was awarded to the Yosemite Valley Railroad, Bullock and several other companies continued to pursue the race for tourism, including an Eastern combine headed by J.P. Morgan and J.D. Rockefeller, Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, and an electric line from Fresno headed by H. Huntington.

Bullock's Yosemite Short Line Railway reached Jacksonville and was stopped by heavy rainfall and flooding in the fall of 1905. The final blow was April 18, 1906 when the San Francisco earthquake occurred. The San Francisco financial backers immediately withdrew their money. Within two months, Bullock removed the narrow gauge track and two small gasoline engines. In 1907, the Yosemite Valley Railroad, out of Merced, won the race to Yosemite, but the right-of-way was not granted beyond the El Portal terminus. The federal government thought the last twelve miles were too steep. Stagecoaches took passengers the twelve miles into the valley floor on a wagon road built by the railroad company, which later became the "Arch Rock" entrance to the National Park. The importance of tourism didn't lie in just the transportation of passengers into the valley, but also included the construction of bridges, hotels, and roads.



Yosemite
Short
Line



THE ONLY ALL-RAIL-ROUTE TO THE
FAMOUS VALLEY OF THE YOSEMITE

The Yosemite Short Line Railway, in conjunction with the Sierra Railway, makes close connections with both the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railways. Are you contemplating the trip? Information furnished for the asking.

Address, S. H. SMITH, Gen. Pass. Agt. Sierra Railway
JAMESTOWN, CALIFORNIA.



Railtown News

Tour Guides Needed

If you are interested in sharing our railroad history with visitors during the week, we are in need of Tour Guides. Currently we need a Tour Guide on Fridays to fill in for Bill Gillaspie who will be away for awhile on family business. Weekday tour guides have the luxury of extending their tours from 45 minutes to an hour and a half, as needed. Guides are asked to be on duty starting with the first tour at 10 am. Our weekday tour guides currently are Monty Youngborg (Mondays), Leroy Bushart (Tuesdays), Bob Davis (Wednesdays), Ron Jeske (Thursdays) and as mentioned Bill on Fridays. Weekdays are available whenever one of our regularly scheduled guides needs to be away. On weekends, we'd like to thank Jim Mullin and Ken Vogel who faithfully cover Sundays. Also Bill Baum, Joe Sparagna and James Stark, who have been covering Saturdays. Please call our volunteer desk 984-4408 if you can help on Saturdays or on any weekdays as a substitute.

Exciting Volunteer Field Trips Planned

This year we have planned two field trips. Both trips are on Link Line's 25-seat, air-conditioned bus. Our first trip is to the Hetch Hetchy Dam on Wednesday, August 17th. Along the way we'll tour through Moccasin and Groveland. At the dam, we'll have a bag lunch and at 1pm a Park Ranger will give us a 45-minute interpretive program. Our second trip will take place on Thursday, September 22. We'll visit the New Melones Dam, Visitors Center and end up at the Sierra Logging Museum in Arnold for a bag lunch. We'll also view their Shay locomotive which is currently being restored. Each trip is \$25 per person (payable to the CSRMF). Because seating is limited, please call in your reservations early to 984-4408.



**O'Shaughnessy
Dam at
Hetch Hetchy
(left)**

New Melones Dam



Water, Cool, Clear Water.....

As you may have already heard, the Park is not providing bottled water any longer, due to budget cut-backs. We'd like to thank those volunteers who have been filling the need with donated water. The donated water may not always be there, so please remember to bring your own, or take advantage of Jamestown's tap, which according to TUD, is perfectly fine.

Volunteers Needed For Gold Rush Days In Old Sacramento

The nationally recognized heritage festival "Gold Rush Days" will take place on Labor Day weekend, September 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. They are seeking costumed volunteers to fill a variety of interesting positions such as: Gold Panning (helping young "miners" to pan, making sure trough is full of "gold"), Adams Bank (cashing in the "miners gold" and handing out Gold Rush Days currency, Mrs. Fink's Boarding House (includes laundry service and cooking), Children's Crafts (games, bowling and teaching 19th century children's games), Women's Work (tatting, lace making, millinery, sewing, etc.), Gamblers (dealing 19th century gambling games) and Roaming Characters (if you have a character, let them know), and other non costumed positions. For info go to www.sacramentogoldrushdays.com/volunteer



Volunteers of The Month

This month say hello to Hal and Janet Montano. They joined us in March of this year and have already logged many hours working as Greeters and Car Hosts. Hal has been with us almost every Tuesday cleaning the Pullman cars, windows and all in preparation for the coming weekend. Both were born and educated in San Francisco's East Bay, where they raised 5 children. In 2010 they moved to their new home in Sugar Pine. They are celebrating 52 years of marriage. Both were volunteers for many years for the historic Haas-Lilienthal House in San Francisco and are still involved with San Francisco's Architectural Heritage and their preservation efforts.

Hal retired after 30 years as a plumber and master mechanic from the Bio-Tec Company. He is an avid clock collector and loves to travel with Janet. Together they have traversed the globe to such destinations as France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, South America, Mexico, Canada, Alaska, the Caribbeans, and to over 20 of America's states. Janet enjoys Interior Design, landscaping, cooking, quilting, and the challenge of collecting and creating

period clothing. She often participates in Art Deco, Costume Guild and similar events. Both Hal and Janet say they enjoy being a part of our friendly and dedicated group of volunteers and sharing our local railroad history with park visitors. A big heartfelt THANK YOU to both for your service!



The Railtown Mailbag:

"On behalf of the National Model Railroad Association and most especially the over 200 attendees to the 2011 NMRA National Convention who visited Railtown on Monday, July 4th a sincere "Thanks" for the wonderful hospitality shown by all the volunteers and staff at Railtown. The knowledge, enthusiasm and customer focus of everyone was noticed by all who attended and many remarked it was the most friendly group of volunteers they had ever seen at a park. Naturally, everyone attending was blown away by the historic site and the amazing equipment they saw at Railtown. Kudos to all."

Dave Connery

Fitness Challenge At Jamestown Elementary

Hello Everyone,

I am sending this email out in hopes to get some fundraising help. I am on a committee for the Jamestown Elementary School Science Camp and Outdoor Education. We are trying to raise \$10,000 needed to send the 6th grade to Science Camp. My son Bryce is going into the 6th grade. We are having a fundraiser and community event on September 10th. Several agencies will be participating and interacting with the youth (Fire, SO, Mentoring, Ambulance, etc.). I hoping for a big event that parents and children from all over the community with participate. Please consider sponsoring this event. Also keep in mind that this is a fitness challenge for everyone so if you want to participate please join us. The cut-off for sponsors on the shirts is August 15th. Thank you in advance for your consideration! For more registration info please call (209) 984-1912

Sincerely,

Bryce, Deborah & Aaron Moss



RAILTOWN 1897
State Historic Park

PO Box 1250

Jamestown, CA 95327

Return Service Requested



TO:

Depot Store- (209) 984-3953

Docent Hotline- (209) 984-4408

Docent Site- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>

Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

Newsletter submissions: RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov

(all area codes are 209)

Kim Baker , Park Superintendent	984-4622	kbaker@parks.ca.gov
George Sapp , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	gsapp@parks.ca.gov
Kevin Zimmerman , Asst. Railroad Operations Manager	557-0294	kzimmerman@parks.ca.gov
Lisa Smithson , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-3119	lsmithson@parks.ca.gov
Ryan Richelson , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	rrichelson@parks.ca.gov
Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	dtaylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Park Aid & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	darainwater@parks.ca.gov
Kevin Zimmerman , Engine Crew Caller	557-0294	kzimmerman@parks.ca.gov
Ron White , Stationmaster and Asst. Crew Caller for Car Hosts	551-7087	rbarryw@att.net
Carl Rudolph , Crew Caller Fire Patrol	586-9905	cakr@sonnet.com
Laverne Coon , Special Decorations and Ticket Agent Caller	984-4408	

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request